

Central States Synodical Women's Organization

May 18, 2023 Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present: Vickie Donnell, Kathy Steinke, Susie Borgstrom, Janice Gerken, Pat Dunavan, Jill Duis and Gaye Mizell. Absent: Rev. Dinah Dutta (and one position unfilled)

Opening: At 7:10 Jill opened the meeting with prayer and Pat lead the reading of the Mission and Purpose Statements.

Approval of Minutes: There was one correction to the minutes: Kathy volunteered to be Board Liaison for the Nomination Committee. (not Janice as written) The Minutes were approved as corrected by consensus. Approved minutes will be sent for posting on webpage.

Treasurer's Report: Janice reported \$25,676.39 in our operating account, with \$16,605.21 in the Barbara Nelson Memorial fund and \$3,995.22 in our Central States WELCA Education Fund. The Treasurer's Report was approved by consensus.

Announcements:

Border Cluster Gathering: Pat and Vickie attended the April 15th meeting at Hosanna! in Liberty and were pleased with the good turnout and interest in forming new congregational units as well as enthusiasm for a Border Cluster Meeting next year. Thanks was extended to Louise Ahrens who was the primary planner of the gathering

Eastern Cluster Gathering: Vickie, Kathy, and Gaye were present at the May 6th meeting at Trinity in Manchester on May 6th. They reported an excellent gathering with good attendance and much interest. Kathy stated there were 40 people from 8 different congregations. Recognition was extended to Wilma Prifti who gave much effort in pulling together the event.

Janice reported that the former Mid-Missouri cluster held a gathering with a good turnout and a great time.

Susie reported on the gathering of women from several congregations in close proximity to McPherson, stating that several women enjoyed the fellowship.

At convention a special recognition will be given to the cluster leaders who have agreed to take on the responsibilities for our 5 clusters moving forward.

If anyone has any updates on current units or churches, please send the information to Pat and Vickie.

Unfinished Business:

The deadline for applications to receive funding from the Barbara Nelson fund for the Triennial Gathering was April 30. It was agreed that we could use more applications. It was approved by consensus to postpone the deadline until the end of the June 23- 25th convention.

New Business:

Janice reviewed the most recent version of the proposed budget for the year ending 1/31/2025, which will be submitted for approval at convention.

Vickie asked that all materials for the convention information booklet be to her by June 1st.

Convention:

-Vickie reported on the current status of registrations received and urged all to make special effort within their congregations as well as those nearby to encourage attendance. Now is the time to send emails and place calls to remind women regarding the convention. Vickie stated that she would be sending out an e-mail to all on the newsletter e-mail distribution list with that reminder. Discussion moved to the remaining needs for the convention information booklet.

-Johanna Erdman from Fair Trade confirmed the shared room and \$200 rent was fine.

-Lori Garcia is our Churchwide Representative and confirmed to lead the Bible study Saturday morning and two break-out sessions Saturday afternoon. She will be sending photo and any updated bio information to Vickie.

- The musicians for convention have been arranged and will provide accompaniment for opening and closing worship and one break-out session. Janice will take leadership with this.

-Rev Linda Daniels-Block is confirmed as Chaplain and Janice will provide her photo and bio for the convention booklet.

-Kelsey Scism is the confirmed Friday evening keynote speaker and we have received her information.

-Rev. Dutta is confirmed as our Sunday morning presiding pastor and has provided a photo and bio.

-Pastor Jill Duis is worship assistant for Sunday morning service and has provided photo and bio.

- ChildSafe representative Heather Lynn is confirmed and Janice will provide a photo and bio.

-KC Wolfe, the Saturday Evening entertainment. is confirmed and pic and bio have been received.

- Lauren Bailey and Dani Kerns, our scholarship grant recipients, have submitted photos and bio information will be captured from their applications.

-President's Report from Vickie

-Treasurer's Report from Janice

-Secretary's Report from Susie

-Proposed Budget FYE 1/31/2025 from Janice

-Nomination bios for President, Treasurer, and three Board Members. Kathy, as liaison from the board, has been in contact with the members of the committee, Gloria Sharp and Rhonda Templing.

-List of the Cluster Coordinators, from Vickie

- List of Vendors, Gaye reported on what had come in so far.

- Stewardship Report from Janice

- Cluster Coordinator Liaison Report from Pat

- Discipleship Report from Rev. Dutta

- Social Justice Report from Jill

Communication with Presenters: Kathy has contacted the presenters and everyone has been confirmed.

Activities: Kathy has the scavenger hunt planned and will end before 5pm on Saturday. Pat has the supplies for Bingo and Vickie said she will pick up the small prizes. Gaye will get supplies for the blessing jars. Anyone who wishes to bring handiwork is welcome to do so.

Prayer Partner Activity: Vickie has cards, Kathy the big bowl, and Janice has the tabletop cross.

Centerpieces: Kathy will personally provide materials for these and take them for her personal use post-convention.

Grants for convention registration: Gaye reported that she had received one application for convention registration from Mary Beth Pogue. The application was approved by consensus and Gaye will make contact with her. Vickie will notify the registrar.

Once We Were Refugees: Pat was going to notify Ann Say to have adequate vehicles to move in-kind donations as we are expecting a large amount.

Signs: It was decided to make signs to direct our convention traffic from the front hotel desk to registration and our convention meeting rooms. Several board members volunteered to work on the task Thursday evening before the convention begins. The hotel has tripods we can use for our signs.

Resolutions: It was decided to create 5 resolutions. Leadership in writing these needs to be further discussed.

1. Peace and Unity
2. Child Safe and Human Trafficking
3. Refugees
4. Hospitality/Inclusion
5. Convention Courtesy Resolution

Other:

-Vickie shared regarding a contact she has had from Rev Al Erickson, a retired pastor in MN, having been referred by the Bishops office. She stated that he is an advocate for Adults Saving Kids (ASK), an organization with the mission to train and provide resources to parents and grandparents to assist in raising healthy children, protecting them from temptations in today's world. Curriculum can be reviewed at

<https://adultssavingkids.org>.

- Jill applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant and has received the \$250 to help with convention extra expenses. It was suggested some could be used for BINGO prizes and appreciation tokens that will be awarded.

-Vickie requested to purchase a binding machine that can be used to bind convention information booklets. The cost is approximately \$50. The board approved purchase of the item by consensus. It will be kept after the convention with our synodical women's supplies.

- Lodging arrangements for board members were discussed. It was decided that the pre-convention board meeting would not begin until 10:00 a.m. so folks can travel that morning if desired.

-Vickie would go through supplies she has in storage and check availability of nametags, lanyards, voting cards, and raffle tickets.

-Vickie will arrange the Zoom meeting for the voting members the week before convention to answer questions and do some preparation for the business meeting.

The next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, June 8 at 7 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Susie Borgstrom, Secretary